

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04028 262344Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 262229Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9350

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4028

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FOR ARA, D AND L ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV SHUM CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

REF: SANTIAGO 3978

1. I CALLED ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT HIS REQUEST LATE MAY 26;
CUBILLOS INFORMED ME THAT THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATEMENT
WOULD BE ISSUED BY THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR LATER
IN THE DAY. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT. IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT VISIT
OF U.S. ATTORNEY PROPPER, THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, IN FULL CONFORMITY WITH THE
DECISION OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
HAS GIVEN THE FULLEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION TO THE JUDICIAL
SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES WITH REGARD TO THE INVESTI-
GATION OF THE DEPLORABLE ASSASSINATION OF SR. ORLANDO
LETELIER, IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY WITHIN ITS POWERS, AND
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THESE ARE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC. THE NATION HAS RECENTLY
WITNESSED THE ARRIVAL OF MR. PROPPER ALONG WITH ANOTHER
CIVIL SERVANT OF EQUAL OR HIGHER RANK, WITH FULL FANFARE
ON THE PART OF THE MEDIA. WITH TIMING SO SIMULTANEOUS
AS TO BE SUSPICIOUS, CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE NORTH AMERI-
CAN PRESS AND CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES HAVE
INTENSIFIED SPECULATION, WHICH IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION,

AND WHICH TENDS TO IMPUTE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT FOR THOSE FACTS WHICH ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION. THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR FEELS COMPELLED TO POINT OUT THAT THE LATEST VISIT OF MR. PROPPER HAD NO DEFINITE OBJECTIVE WHICH COULD JUSTIFY IT. IT HAD THE SOLE EFFECT OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE ARTIFICIAL CLIMATE IN WHICH THE ENEMIES OF CHILE ARE TRYING TO INVOLVE OUR OWN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES. ANYTHING THAT HAD TO BE DONE AT THIS TIME COULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY MORE NORMAL MEANS. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR THAT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ITS CONTINUING COLLABORATION IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTS, THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TOLERATE, UNDER PRETEXT OF THAT INVESTIGATION, THAT POLITICAL ENDS ARE SERVED OR FAVORED. SUCH POLITICAL ENDS ONLY ENCOURAGE THOSE SECTORS WHICH ARE TRYING TO DISTURB THE FINE AND SATISFACTORY RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN STATES. END TEXT.

3. I ASSURED THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE STATEMENT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PLEASE WASHINGTON. CUBILLOS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS BUT SAID IT WAS THE BEST HE COULD DO.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE FAST PACE OF THIS INVESTIGATION ON THE WASHINGTON END AND WITH INDICTMENTS
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EXPECTED SOON, I BELIEVE WE HAVE BIGGER FISH TO FRY THAN TO BOTHER REACTING TO THE STATEMENT. WE SHOULD KEEP IT IN MIND, HOWEVER, FOR LATER ON AS A PROOF OF THEIR LACK OF COOPERATION WITH MR. PROPPER DURING HIS LAST VISIT.
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